



SMALL TOWN, BIG BEACH

**City of Gulf Shores
Youth Football Program Info
Fall 2016
Parent Information**

Expectations for Football Players and Parents

- Players have the responsibility to try their best, pay attention to the volunteer coaches, be respectful to everyone and have fun.
- Parents have the responsibility to help department staff and volunteer coaches in providing a FUN and SAFE atmosphere for all program participants.
- Parents have the responsibility to support league and team rules and your coach's decisions.
- Parents have the responsibility to get their child to practice and games (contact your coach if your child will be late or cannot attend).
 - Multiple unexcused absences from practices/games may lead to loss of minimum playing time.
- Parents are expected to report special needs to department staff and volunteer coaches (allergies, health issues).

Football Team Placement

- Teams in all leagues (8Under, 9Under, 10Under, 11Under, 12Under) will be assembled by a player draft. Teams will be drafted by head coaches under the supervision of City of Gulf Shores staff.
- Requests for team placement will only be considered for siblings/family members

Code of Conduct

1. I will keep these three priorities in effect at all times:
 - Teach each child to work and encourage each other in a group, emphasizing TEAM.
 - Make practice and games FUN and SAFE for everyone involved.
 - Create an atmosphere of POSITIVE ENCOURAGEMENT to build each child's self esteem.
2. Acceptable Behavior
 - Be respectful and courteous to volunteer coaches, staff and other participants
 - Participate in planned activities
 - Follow directions or charges given by staff
 - Exhibit and maintain positive attitudes toward the environment and facilities
 - Exhibit and maintain respect for all property, facilities and equipment, both public and private
3. Unacceptable Behavior
 - Noncompliance with department rules and regulations
 - Failure to cooperate with staff and or leadership

- Abusive language includes use of profanity in front of any child or direct insults towards staff in charge, park officials, and park patrons. This includes speaking negatively about the team or coach in front of the child.
- Verbal threats
- Physical violence
- Obscene language or gestures, or possession of obscene or suggestive materials or photos
- Vandalism, theft of property or equipment, littering, or damaging government property
- Use of tobacco products in front of any child during practices and/or games
- Distribution or consumption of alcohol or drugs
- Possession of weapons of any kind
- Any unlawful activity

Disciplinary Actions for Violations of Code of Conduct

If spectators, players, and/or coaches fail to abide by the code of conduct aforementioned, they will be subject to disciplinary action as decided by the City of Gulf Shores Recreation Department.

Disciplinary action could include, but is not limited to:

- **Verbal warnings**
 - **Written warnings**
 - **Ejections**
 - **Suspensions for various lengths**
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- Officials, score keepers, and City of Gulf Shores Recreation Department staff have the authority to remove a player, coach, or spectator from a game and can declare the game a forfeit due to unsportsmanlike conduct.
 - Any player, coach, or spectator ejected from any athletic league activity is suspended for a minimum of one (1) game suspension for the next scheduled game. The suspension could be longer depending on the severity of the infraction.
 - Suspensions and ejections are not eligible for appeal.
 - Players, coaches, and spectators who have been ejected must leave the complex and may not return until the completion of their suspension.
 - The City of Gulf Shores Police Department will immediately be notified of any player, coach, or spectator ejected and/refusing to follow instructions of officials and or staff.

Practices

- Teams are eligible to meet for 6 hours a week for practices/games
- Practice weeknights available (2 hour maximum practice)
- Practice times will need to be adjusted as needed due to daylight savings, weather and staying within meeting for 6 hours a week
- First practice is scheduled for **August 1st**
- Practices fields with lights are available at Gulf Shores High School, Gulf Shores Middle School.
- Teams will practice game skills and fundamentals in preparation for their season.
- Please consider providing parents with information on your playbook, skills worked on at practice, etc., these can also be practiced at home
- Unless notified differently by the athletic coordinator, players will need to wear their helmet, pads, practice jersey, practice pants and cleats
- No jewelry, food or gum
- **Participants will need to bring water to every practice.**

Games

- Teams are eligible to meet for 6 hours a week for practices/games
- Games will be played on Saturdays throughout Baldwin County
- Begin **Saturday, September 9th**
- Schedules will be provided to coaches and parents as soon as it is available
- Games will use a running clock during the regular season
- Directions to the various parks for games will be provided to the coaches, players and parents

Make-up Games

- Very limited slots available for any make-up games
- Notification of any make-up games will be communicated by the athletic coordinator

Playoffs and Super Bowl

- Playoff and Super Bowl game schedule TBA
- Single Elimination

Uniforms

- Uniform provided: Game Jersey, Game Pants (integrated with pads), Game Socks
- Equipment Items Provided: Helmet, Should Pads, Mouth Piece
- Other uniform items (eye shields, sweat bands, gloves, etc.) are not provided by the City of Gulf Shores Recreation & Cultural Affairs These items may be purchased on an individual basis
- Uniforms will be distributed to teams prior to the start of games.

Parents Association for Youth Sports

- Coaches and parents will receive copies of a Parent Code of Ethics at the time of registration. This Parent Code of Ethics describes the expectations and standards of all youth sport parents..
- It will be required to read, sign and return the Parent Code of Ethics
- You are encouraged to volunteer as a team parent, you will be a tremendous help to your child's coach, let them know you are willing to help

Team Parents (possible roles)

- Snacks for after practices and games
- Aid coach in planning for your team and keeping communication with the other parents.
- Help the volunteer coaches in conducting practice or games if needed
- Contact your coach if you would like to help in any way

Picture Day

- Team picture schedule Saturday, August 26th at Opening Day
- Arrive 5 - 10 minutes before scheduled picture time
- Picture envelopes will be provided
- Payment and completed picture envelope is due on picture day.

Inclement Weather

- **Inclement Weather Hotline 251-968-4417**
- Any decisions regarding game/practice cancellations due to weather will not be made until 4 p.m.
- The athletic coordinator will provide coaches and parents with updated information regarding weather cancellations via the inclement weather hotline.